

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 OIC-02 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USSS-00

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SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, MARCH 21 MEETING.

REF: (A) USUN 784, (B) USUN 820

1. SUMMARY: AT AM MARCH 21 MEETING, AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM COMPLETED ITS SELECTION OF BUREAU WITH ELECTION BY CONSENSUS OF PERSSON (SWEDEN) VICE-CHAIRMAN. CHAIRMAN, HOVEYDA, THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SPEND TWO DAYS ON GENERAL DEBATE ON TERRORISM, DURING WHICH PROPOSALS MIGHT BE MADE FOR COMMITTEE'S WORK LATER IN WEEK. HOVEYDA CONTINUED THAT FOLLOWING GENERAL DEBATE, BUREAU SHOULD MEET AGAIN INFORMALLY TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF REMAINDER OF COMMITTEE'S TIME. HOVEYDA'S PROPOSALS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMENT. GENERAL DEBATE THEN BEGAN. FIRST SPEAKER WAS URUGUAY, WHICH CALLED FOR PROMPT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WHICH NO CAUSE COULD JUSTIFY. ALGERIA MADE SHORT INTERVENTION TO STRESS THAT COMMITTEE NEEDED TO STUDY CAUSES OF TERRORISM, EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS ADMITTEDLY A LONG-TERM ENDEAVOR, AND TO STUDY STATE TERRORISM. SWEDEN INTRODUCED ITS PROPOSALS FOR ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE WORK: CONCENTRATION ON IDENTIFICATION

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OF ACTS IN CATEGORY OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND MEASURES TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. AS THERE WERE NO FURTHER SPEAKERS, CHAIRMAN CANCELLED PM MARCH 21 MEETING, SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING FOR AM MARCH 22, AND ADJOURNED MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, COMMITTEE COMPLETED SELECTION OF BUREAU WITH CONSENSUS ELECTION OF PERSSON (SWEDEN) AS

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

3. CHAIRMAN, HOVEYDA, THEN REPORTED ON RESULTS OF MARCH 18 INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF BUREAU CONCERNING ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE WORK (REFTEL B). HOVEYDA SAID BUREAU RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE SPEND MARCH 21 AND 22 IN GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING PROPOSALS AS TO HOW COMMITTEE SHOULD PROCEED IN REMAINING TIME. AFTER GENERAL DEBATE, BUREAU WOULD MEET AGAIN TO DRAW UP A PROPOSAL ON HOW REMAINING WORK OF COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ORGANIZED. HOVEYDA ALSO NOTED THAT MANDATE OF COMMITTEE WAS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. COMMITTEE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT HOVEYDA'S SUGGESTION TO BEGIN WITH GENERAL DEBATE.

4. ONLY AFTER SUBSTANTIAL PRODDING BY CHAIRMAN DID FIRST SPEAKER TAKE FLOOR. URUGUAY'S REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING FROM PREPARED TEXT, STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WAS INCREASING, EXPANDING ITS REACH, ORGANIZING, AND IMPROVING ITS TECHNOLOGY. REPRESENTATIVE UNDERLINED THAT THERE WAS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CONFRONT TERRORISM AND TO CONDEMN IT, "WHATEVER ITS EXCUSE". HE CONCLUDED WITH ENUMERATION OF FOLLOWING POINTS: INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED; UNDERLYING CAUSES OF TERRORISM NEED TO BE SOLVED; LEGITIMACY OF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM IS RECOGNIZED BUT NOT THEIR USE OF TERRORISM. HE WENT ON TO ENDORSE THE PROTECTION OF CIVIL AVIATION CONVENTIONS, THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS CONVENTION, THE DECLARATION ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND THE DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION. URGED THAT EACH STATE ENACT NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM. HE CALLED FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO ELIMINATE ALL PLACES OF REFUGE FOR TERRORISTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERRED TO URUGUAY'S 1973 PROPOSAL.

5. ALGERIA'S REPRESENTATIVE MADE SHORT, APPARENTLY IMPROMPTU INTERVENTION. HE SAID THAT COMMITTEE SHOULD IDENTIFY VARIOUS FORMS OF TERRORISM SO THAT COULD IDENTIFY CAUSES. HE DREW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "BANDITRY" WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS COMMON LAW OFFENSES GENERALLY PUNISHABLE BY COMMON LAW AND ORDINARILY A DOMESTIC CONCERN, AND "POLITICAL" TERRORISM. ALGERIAN IDENTIFIED THREE TYPES OF POLITICAL TERRORISM: FIRST, THAT ARISING FROM THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT WAS NOT "INTERNATIONAL" TERRORISM. SECOND, THAT DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE COLONIAL DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION. SAID COMMITTEE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON IDENTIFYING CAUSES OF THIS FORM OF TERRORISM. THIRD, STATE TERRORISM. SAID THIS WAS MOST HARMFUL FORM OF TERRORISM BECAUSE OF MODERN MEANS WHICH STATES HAD AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO TERRORIZE THEIR POPULATIONS. ALGERIAN PROMISED TO ELABORATE ON THESE POINTS IN A LATER INTERVENTION.

6. PERSSON (SWEDEN) WAS FINAL SPEAKER. SAID THAT HE DID NOT MINIMIZE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF TERRORISM. STRESSED THAT THIS LONG-TERM PROJECT SHOULD NOT HAMPER PROGRESS ON MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM. SAID THAT SHORT TIME REMAINING INSUFFICIENT TO DRAW UP GENERAL CONVENTION ON TERRORISM. PERSSON URGED COMMITTEE TO NARROW ITS INQUIRY. SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE DEVOTE TIME AFTER GENERAL DEBATE TO EFFORT TO DELIMIT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM BY IDENTIFYING SOME ACTS WHICH ALL WOULD AGREE ARE CONDEMNABLE. COMMITTEE MIGHT FORMULATE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) AS TO WHAT MEASURES UNGA COULD TAKE WITH RESPECT TO THESE ACTS. GAVE EXAMPLE OF 31ST UNGA DECISION TO CONVENE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES. WE UNDERSTOOD PERSSON TO DEFINE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AS ACTIONS AFFECTING A THIRD STATE, WHETHER BY OCCURRING ON TERRITORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THIRD STATE OR AFFECTING PROPERTY OR NATIONAL OF THIRD STATE. SAID THAT SWEDEN DID NOT QUESTION THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN CHARTER, BUT SAID NO MOTIVE COULD JUSTIFY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. SAID THE CIVIL AVIATION CONVENTIONS WERE PRECEDENT FOR SAYING MOTIVE OF TERRORIST WAS IRRELEVANT. IN ADDITION TO "DELIMITING TERRORISM", SAID COMMITTEE COULD RECOMMEND THAT UNGA ENCOURAGE RATIFICATION OF AND ADHERENCE TO HIJACKING CONVENTIONS AND COULD ALSO DISCUSS DOMESTIC MEASURES TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

7. NO OTHER STATE WAS PREPARED TO SPEAK AT AM MEETING OR AT PM MARCH 21 MEETING. THEREFORE, CHAIRMAN CANCELLED PM MEETING AND THEN ADJOURNED AM MEETING. HE SET NEXT MEETING FOR AM MARCH 22.

8. PROPOSED US GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT FOR USE MARCH 22 BY DATAFAX TO IO/HR -CRAWFORD. TO AVOID POSSIBLE LATER ALLEGATIONS THAT WEO'S DRAGGING FEET AT MEETING, WEO'S CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT FOR WEO MEMBERS TO SPEAK CONSTRUCTIVELY IN GENERAL DEBATE.
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